

# Infectious Disease Mapping Challenge: Advancing Global Health Security



Project Title	Infectious Disease Mapping Challenge: Advancing Global Health Security
Project Summary	Virtual Student Foreign Service Interns will coordinate and promote an infectious disease geospatial mapping challenge for students interested in preventing, detecting, and responding to health threats.
Country	United States
Agency	Department of State
DoS Office	OES/IHB
Post	N/A
Section	N/A
Number of Interns	3

## Project Description

This year will mark the third consecutive year that OES/IHB has supported an infectious disease mapping challenge. The activity is designed to a) engage university campuses on topics of health security, b) reinforce the value of geospatial data and analysis for tackling health problems, and c) create relevant and visually appealing maps that can inform policymakers. The themes of the challenge align with the Global Health Security Agenda (GHSA), a multisectoral international initiative designed to prevent, detect, and respond to infectious disease outbreaks. Please visit <http://www.ghsagenda.org> for more information on GHSA.

There are a large number of questions relevant to global health security that can be addressed with geo-spatial mapping. For example, are there vulnerable communities where immunization rates are far higher or lower than the city or national average? Are there geographic touch points between the range of wildlife that may carry disease and livestock populations? Is there a spatial and/or seasonal pattern in the epidemiology of zoonotic disease outbreaks? Can the scale, distribution, or effectiveness of GHSA-related capacity building efforts be mapped?

Rather than dictating the specific maps to make, the VSFS Intern(s) would explain the basic goals of GHSA to fellow students, and then charge them with developing the most relevant and visually-appealing maps, using publicly available data sets (where international data sets are limited, the use of domestic data sets would be permitted). Students who submit particularly compelling maps would be invited to share their work with relevant officials and academics working on global health security matters. VSFS Intern(s) should be capable of using social media, graphic design, or other forms of outreach to promote the mapping challenge.

Required Interests and Skills: Experience in public health, health economics, public policy, marketing, geography, computer science, geospatial mapping, and/or other relevant disciplines is required. Experience with

information technology, crowdsourcing, or promoting campus competitions is a plus.

## **Desired Skills Interests**

## **Additional Information**

The Office of International Health and Biodefense is part of the Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, which is the Department's primary bureau for addressing environment, science, technology, and health (ESTH) issues. We work with other department offices and U.S. government agencies, with ESTH officers at embassies and consulates around the world, and with bilateral and multilateral partners to improve global health and address emerging health challenges.

## **Language Requirements**

*None*